

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cutting apparatus for cutting a sheet material, comprising:
a platform for sustaining thereon said sheet material;
a rail structure secured onto said platform wherein said rail structure comprises a bar having a trench on a lower surface thereof and serving as a track member;
a sliding member sliding along said rail structure bar;
a pressing plate having a through hole and disposed under said rail structure and engaging with said sliding member for pressing said sheet material against said platform in response to an external force, wherein a gap exists between said pressing plate and said platform for receiving said sheet material before said external force is exerted;
an elastic member connected with and disposed between said rail structure and said trench of said bar and said through hole of said pressing plate to keep said gap between said pressing plate and said platform by a recovery force thereof when said external force is released; and
a cutting member carried by said sliding member for cutting said sheet material sustained on said platform.

2. (Currently Amended) The cutting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rail structure further comprises:
~~a bar serving as a track member for allowing said sliding member to slide therealong; and~~
two supporting members, each connecting one end of said bar and said platform so as to allow said bar to suspend above said platform.

3. (Currently Amended) The cutting apparatus according to claim 2 1 wherein said elastic member has two ends secured to said bar and said pressing plate, respectively.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The cutting apparatus according to claim [[4]] 1 wherein said elastic member comprises:

an elastic body penetrating through said trench of said bar and said through hole of said pressing plate;

an upper end has a transverse dimension greater than the width of said trench so as to engage with said bar; and

a lower end has a transverse dimension greater than the width of said through hole so as to engage with said pressing plate.

6. (Currently Amended) The cutting apparatus according to claim [[3]] 1 wherein said elastic member is comprises a tension spring.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The cutting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a cover for covering said sliding member and said cutting member and receiving said external force; and

a compression spring mounted between and urging against said cover and said sliding member, wherein said sliding member is pressed down to transmit said pressing plate and said cutting member to move downwards when said external force is exerted on said cover by a user, and said pressing plate along with said sliding member is lifted up by said recovery force of said

elastic member to transmit said cover and said cutting member to move upwards by the recovery force of said compression spring when said external force is released from said cover.

10. (Original) The cutting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said sheet material is paper.

11. (Original) The cutting apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said cutting member is a rotary knife.

12. (Currently Amended) A cutting apparatus for cutting a sheet material, comprising:
a platform for placing thereon said sheet material;
a track member having a trench on a lower surface thereof and suspending above said platform;

a pressing plate having a through hole and disposed between said track member and said platform, having a gap from said platform for receiving said sheet material when said pressing plate is at an initial position, and pressing said sheet material against said platform when said pressing plate is at a working position;

a sliding member supported by said track member and engaging with said pressing plate, said sliding member being depressed to transmit said pressing plate from said initial position to said working position and moving along said track member in response to an external force;

an elastic member disposed between and engaging with said track member and said pressing plate, recovering said pressing plate from said working position back to said initial position when said external force is released wherein said elastic member comprises an elastic body penetrating through said trench and said through hole; and

a cutting member carried by said sliding member to protrude from said pressing plate and pass through said sheet material to cut said sheet material.

13. (Original) The cutting apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising two supporting members, each connecting one end of said track member and said platform so as to allow said track member to suspend above said platform.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The cutting apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said elastic member further comprises:

~~an elastic body penetrating through said trench of said track member and said through hole of said pressing plate;~~

an upper end has a transverse dimension greater than the width of said trench so as to engage with said trench; and

a lower end has a transverse dimension greater than the width of said through hole so as to engage with said through hole.

16. (Currently Amended) The cutting apparatus according to claim ~~15~~ 12 wherein said elastic member is comprises a tension spring.

17. (Original) The cutting apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

a cover for covering said sliding member and said cutting member and receiving said external force; and

a compression spring mounted between and urging against said cover and said sliding member, wherein said sliding member is pressed down to transmit said pressing plate and said cutting member to move downwards when said external force is exerted on said cover by a user, and said pressing plate along with said sliding member is lifted up by a recovery force of said elastic member to transmit said cover and said cutting member to move upwards by the recovery force of said compression spring when said external force is released from said cover.

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18. (Original) The cutting apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said cutting member is a rotary knife.